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January 26, 2002

US Department of Justice
Attorney General John Ashcroft
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Microsoft Settlement

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

Throughout the course of this lawsuit, I have been most impressed with the technical and communicative misunderstandings that have been perpetrated the entire time. It seems to me as if the government lawyers lacked any measure of reasonable expertise in the software and operating system arena. This, in turn, hampered any real chance for them to have rendered any relatively realistic assessment of the problem with Microsoft – if, indeed any problem really existed that deserved government action. When the government did rely on outside technical expertise, it relied on Microsoft's competitors only. Does that provide truly unbiased advice?

This settlement at least has the advantage of bringing to an end these proceedings. While I am sure that Microsoft has accepted these terms to be done with it, I feel that the terms allow for a greater flexibility within the IT industry and will have positive effects. It is the right signal. The options for software companies to develop new versions of software in light of knowing more about Microsoft's interfaces and protocols alone are astounding, to say nothing of the market incentives raised by other business-specific changes.

For these reasons, I am in general support of the settlement, and I hope that it indeed does end the trial and this nightmare of instability in our market.

Sincerely,

Kay Unkroth
General Manager

16418 NE 48th Street • Redmond, WA • 98052 • Tel: (425) 497 0222 • Fax: (425) 869-8393
Email: advantage@corponsite-int.com • Registered in Washington • United States

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